

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 14-18 were pending in the present application. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 1 and canceled claim 6. Applicant has also added new independent claim 20. The present Amendment does not introduce any new matter and thus, its entry is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the present Amendment, claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-18 and 20 will be pending and under examination.

The October 30, 2007 Office Action

According to the October 30, 2007 Office Action, Applicant's Amendment and Remarks to a Non-Final Office Action filed August 13, 2007 has overcome the several rejections and objections that had been set forth in the previous Office Action.

In response, Applicant acknowledges and appreciates both the Examiner's withdrawal of these rejections and his rendering of various rejections as moot.

Examiner's Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraphs

With regard to the rejections of claims 1-12 and 14-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for indefiniteness, as set forth in the paragraphs 15-16 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner is of the opinion that "[i]t is unclear how the closure is performed in the embodiments where the bioaffinity binding pair is only anchored onto the carrier materials and there are no binding partners attached to the bacterial ghost." See top of p. 4 of the outstanding Office Action.

While not acquiescing to the propriety of the Office's reasoning, Applicant has obviated the rejection by amending independent claim 1 to delete the claim term "or." No new matter is added by this amendment and support is found in the embodiments disclosed in the specification. These include embodiments in which closure is mediated by way of specific interactions between the bioaffinity binding pair partners, which are anchored on both the ghosts and the carrier materials. See p. 3, ll. 7-21 of Specification and claim 5. Consequently, currently amended claim 1 particularly points out and distinctly claims a method in which closure is mediated by way of specific interactions between the partners of a bioaffinity binding pair, which partners are anchored on the ghosts and the carrier materials. Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that this rejection should be removed.

Applicants have also added new independent claim 20. No new matter is added by the addition of this claim and support is found in the embodiments disclosed in the specification. The present application discloses embodiments in which closure is mediated by way of specific interactions between a first partner of a bioaffinity binding pair anchored on both the ghosts and the carrier materials and a second partner of a bioaffinity binding pair is in free form. See p. 3, ll. 21-29 of Specification.

In view of the above amendments and remarks hereto, Applicants believe that all of the Examiner's rejections set forth in the October 30, 2007 Office Action have been fully overcome and that the present claims fully satisfy the patent statutes. Applicants, therefore, believe that the application is in condition for allowance. The Director is authorized to charge any fees or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if it is deemed to expedite allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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